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WASHINGTON - Last week Congressman Wright Patman said the CIA had been trifling with him, and so he revealed that the super-secret spy organization had been using a tax-exempt. charitable foundation as a cover for its activities. The revelation cast a shadow on the role of all U.S. foundations and made people wonder how many are ectually financed by the Central Intelligence Agency.

Just the other day a friend of ours applied to a foundation for a grant to study rock formations in the Catskills.

As he tells it, he walked into an ofrice where a man who looked exactly like Gary Powers asked him to be seated. On his desk were parts of a U-2 that had been shot down.

"What can I do for you?" the man

"I'd like a grant to study rock formations in the Catskill mountains."

"THAT'S VERY interesting. Would you be willing to take a lie detector

"I guess so," our friend replied. "But what for?"

"I'll ask the questions. Fill out this form, please."

Our friend started to write. "There's no ink in the pen."

"Keep writing. The man smiled. We'll worry about that."

Then the man offered him a cigarette.

As our friend accepted it, he distinctly heard a camera click.

"NOW TELL ME about these rock formations."

"I don't know anything about them. That's why I want the grant.".

"Have you ever thought about studying rock formations in the Urals?"